



ANG

Bayan

PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATNUBAYAN NG
MARXISMO-LENINISMO-MAOISMO

Volume XXXII Number 6

English Edition

June 2002

Editorial

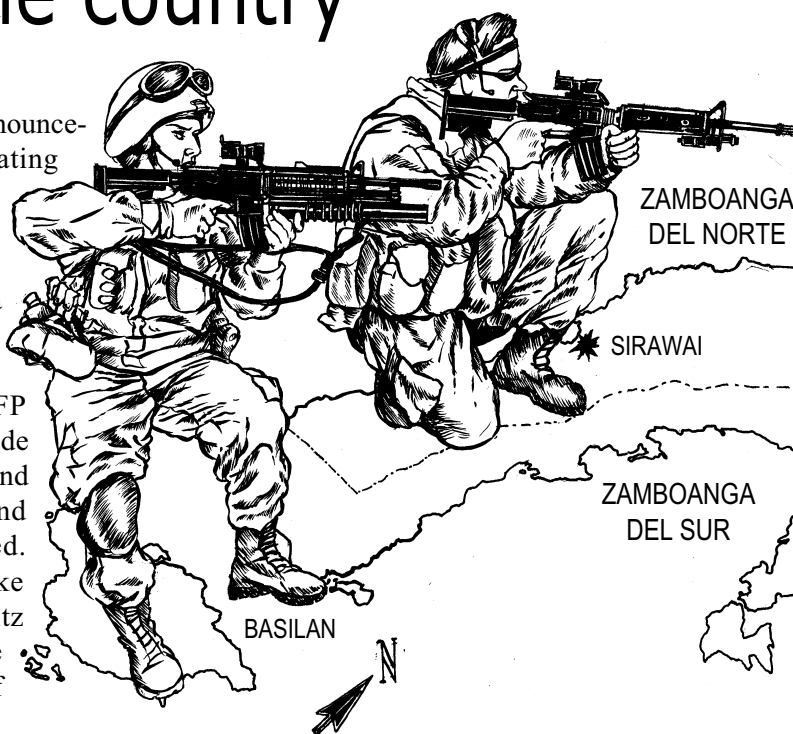
Resist the rapidly escalating US armed intervention in the country

The latest developments and Malacañang pronouncements offer further proof of rapidly escalating levels of US military intervention and the importance of advancing ever thoroughly the broad anti-interventionist movement.

On June 3, the GRP and the US through Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz agreed to allow American troops participating in Balikatan 02-1 join AFP company-level operations and be deployed outside Basilan—including the Zamboanga Peninsula and other areas where clashes between the AFP and the Abu Sayyaf bandits have actually occurred. According to Wolfowitz, it would be a mistake to focus attention only on one island. Wolfowitz brazenly expressed the US' openness to involve itself in the Philippines beyond the conduct of "military training exercises".

Wolfowitz also strongly suggested extending the presence of American troops "training Filipino soldiers" in Mindanao. Macapagal-Arroyo's government has said that it was open to the suggestion. National Security Adviser Roilo Golez has likewise declared that there was no need to amend the Terms of Reference to extend the presence of American soldiers in the country.

In this regard, the US through Wolfowitz, has also been pushing Macapagal-Arroyo to sign the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), saying that this would enable the US and the Philippines to begin new cooperative measures in the campaign against terrorism in the country



and in Southeast Asia. This is in exchange for more US military aid for the AFP.

The MLSA's approval will grant the US the right to use any facility anywhere in the country, whenever and however long it wants to, for its military forces. It will also have the right to set up facilities in the country for arms storage.

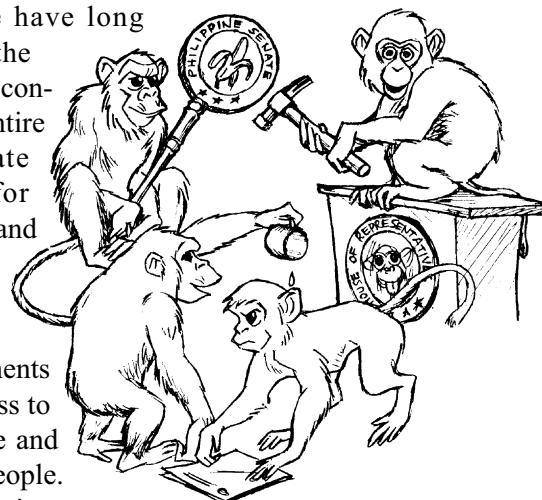
Such developments have made it ever clearer that the US is escalating and accelerating the expansion and permanent presence of its armed forces in the Philippines. As time goes by, there is an ever-growing threat that AFP and American troops will launch joint military operations against the national-democratic revolutionary movement.

The death of Abu Sayyaf captives Martin Burnham and Ediborah Yap in a failed rescue operation on June 7 in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte and the recovery of the remaining captive, Gracia Burnham, will be used by the US and the Macapagal-Arroyo regime to go all-out in launching the brutal joint operations of US and AFP troops in Mindanao and push for further US military intervention in the country. In view of these developments, Macapagal-Arroyo declared that the “war against poverty and terrorism” that used to be focused only on pursuing the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Zamboanga del Norte, will no longer be limited to these areas but will encompass other areas of the country.

Even as the revolutionary movement and the people prepare for the growing threat of US armed aggression, we must thoroughly arouse, organize and mobilize the people against imperialist intervention. The revolutionary forces and the people must exert all effort to thwart and resist worsening US intervention, expel all occupation troops and overthrow the Macapagal-Arroyo regime for its thoroughgoing conspiracy with the US to ravage the country’s sovereignty. **AB**

A farce in the senate and congress

The people have long despised the senate and congress and the entire reactionary state and system for their decadence and inutility. Like other branches of government, they are instruments of the ruling class to oppress, deceive and steal from the people.



These institutions are now more despicable with the grandiose farce being played by senators and congressmen from rival factions of the reactionary ruling classes.

It will be recalled that after the ruling clique acquired the majority in the senate in 2001, Sen. John Osmeña, already known for his turncoatism, moved over to the administration side. In exchange, the regime chose him to chair the powerful senate finance committee, enabling him to enjoy various favors from Malacañang. The ruling faction led by only one vote. Thus, when Sen. Ramon Revilla happened to be out of the country to seek medical treatment and Osmeña once more sided with the opposition, the latter suddenly had the majority in the senate.

But this was not enough to supplant the senate leadership; thus the ruling faction retained control in the person of Senate President Franklin Drilon. Pro-administration senators led by Drilon immediately closed down the senate. The opposition continued holding senate sessions and passed laws without the participation of the pro-administration senators.

Speaker Jose de Venecia likewise closed down congress and padlocked the session hall to support the pro-administration senators. Following the cue of their colleagues in the Senate, the opposition congressmen continued conducting congressional sessions outside the session hall using a hammer in lieu of a gavel.

Thus, the reactionary government now has two senates and two congresses, both claiming to be legitimate. This has paralyzed some functions of the reactionary government. The opportunist senators and congressmen are pursuing these maneuvers in all seriousness, but they are a laughing stock and a source of annoyance to the people. **AB**



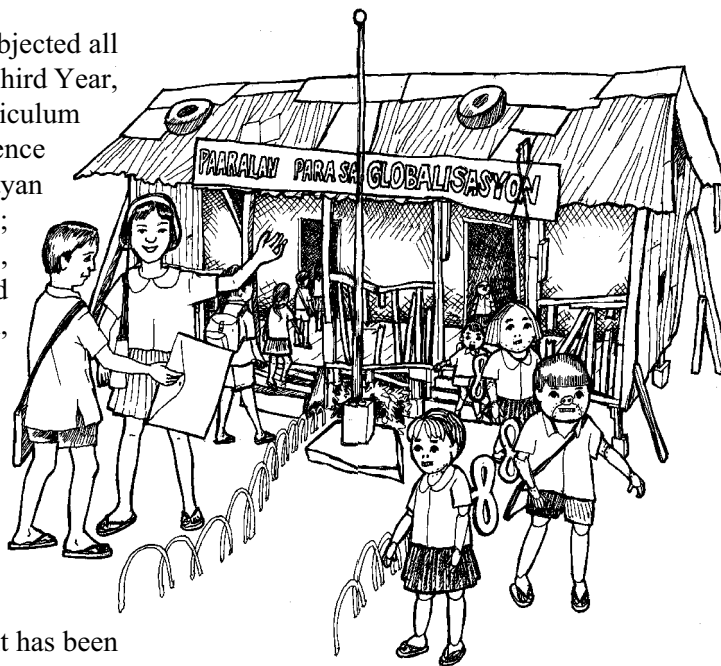
CONTENTS

Volume XXXII No. 6 June 2002

- 1 **Editorial:** Resist the rapidly escalating US armed intervention in the country
- 2 A farce in the senate and congress
- 3 Another curse on the educational system
(4) Other educational system programs enforced since 1986; Colonial orientation of the educational system (5) Tuition fees hiked anew
- 5 Bicol farmers reap gains in coco campaign
- 6 Mang Jose's *lusong*
- 7 Dynasty in Isabela (8) Dy's antipeople businesses in Isabela to be protected by CAFGU
- 8 Fascist state on a rampage (9) People's response to brazen human rights violations in Oriental Mindoro
- 10 Anti-"globalization" protest actions surging forward
- 11 Mass movements against imperialist dictates gain strength worldwide
- 12 Free all political detainees worldwide!
- 12 News

Another curse on the educational system

This June, the Department of Education (DepEd) subjected all public schools, from Grades 1-5 and from First to Third Year, to the Basic Education Curriculum (BEC). The curriculum has five subjects: Pilipino, English, Mathematics, Science and the so-called Makabayan. Combined under Makabayan are the erstwhile separate subjects of Social Studies; Home Economics and Livelihood Education; Music, Art and Physical Education; and Good Manners and Right Conduct for the elementary level. For high school, lumped under Makabayan are Social Studies (that tackle the subjects History and Government, Asian Studies, World History and Economics for the four levels of secondary education); Technology, Home Economics and Livelihood Education; Music, Art and Health and Physical Education; and Values Education. The number of hours allotted to Makabayan looks deceptively long compared to that of other subjects. In actuality, the number of hours allotted to teaching the subjects under it has been reduced to add to that of other BEC subjects.



The DepEd imposed the BEC to further mold the youth into soldiers for “globalization”. Education Secretary Raul S. Roco himself said that the BEC aims for a “patriotism” that recognizes global interdependence—in short, complete subjection to imperialist “globalization”.

The BEC’s emphasis on vocational and technical training is based on Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB) recommendations from as far back as 1998. The latter state that the Philippines’ ability to be “competitive” depends on the existence of graduates with a high level of work skills in the fields of electronics, manufacturing and tourist services. This pegs the role of the Philippines as a supplier of workers for multinationals.

The reduction in the number of main subjects likewise follows ADB and WB dictates to streamline the

curriculum as a belt-tightening measure and to ensure the Philippines’ ability to service its debts especially to imperialist institutions like them.

The BEC is clearly a section in a series of supposed reforms in the educational system pushed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and WB since the 1970s.

As early as 1962, the IMF-WB already had plans to pour funds into the country’s educational system to expand vocational studies. This, to enhance the capacity of the Philippine labor force to answer the needs of the international capitalist system. Based on the results of a US-funded survey, the Marcos dictatorship imposed in 1972 the Educational Development Decree or PD 6-A. The latter emphasized the training of technical and vocational workers. Textbook publication was assigned to the Instructional Materials Corporation, another US-

funded institution, to ensure that the content of schoolbooks hewed to the decree.

In 1974, the regime limited the number of students entering college through the National Collegiate Entrance Examination (NCEE) to push more students to take up technical or vocational courses. Though later replaced by the National Secondary Achievement Test, the NCEE remained in essence.

When the Marcos regime imposed the Education Act of 1982, the state completely abandoned its obligation to provide educational services to the people. The education budget dwindled. Private schools were allowed to commercialize through uncontrolled tuition fee hikes.

The education system programs implemented by succeeding regimes merely perpetuate these measures (*see list*). **AB**

Other educational system programs enforced since 1986

- **Program for Decentralized Education (PRODED) for the elementary level and the Secondary Education Development Program (SEDP), 1980s.** Changed the elementary and high school curricula, focusing them on developing reading, writing and arithmetic skills, which were needed to work in factories or engage in handicrafts. The number of hours for social studies, civics and culture and mathematics was reduced.
- **RA 6655 or the law calling for free high school education, 1988.** Provided for free tuition in public high schools and ensured that curricula for secondary education included vocational and technical courses that would “give students gainful employment”.
- **General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), 1998.** Further commercialized education by opening it to the entry of foreign corporations.
- **Long-Term Higher Education Development Plan.** Systematically reduces the number of state-subsidized colleges and universities from 109 to 25 by 2005. Budget cuts for these schools continued under the Estrada regime.
- **Establishment of the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA), 1994.** Supervised the program for technical and vocational training and apprenticeship of students. It formed part of the implementation of the Dual Training System Act, which called for the massive entry of students into giant corporations for their practicum.
- **Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Memo No. 59.** Limited social science courses.

Colonial orientation of the educational system

In 1900, the American colonial government governed the Philippines through the Philippine Commission. By virtue of Commission Act No. 74, the US sent a thousand American teachers (the Thomasites, named after the ship USS Thomas that brought them to the Philippines) to the country; established the Department of Public Instruction; organized normal, agricultural, vocational and maritime schools; and allotted at least \$700,000 for buildings, equipment and salaries. The law's objective was to use education to inculcate a colonial

mentality in place of critical thinking and patriotism.



The US sent the Thomasites to propagate pro-imperialist philosophy and culture and dilute patriotic and progressive ideas. To facilitate all this, the Thomasites taught English. They also propagated the idea that the Philippine revolutionaries were bandits and thieves. They sought to make the people docile so they would easily embrace colonization. This formed part of the US military government's pacification campaign amid the raging Filipino-American war.

The University of the Philippines was established in 1908 to develop elitist leaders to serve US political and economic designs in the country. Its curriculum was molded and instructional materials chosen in accordance with the actual directions of US imperialism.

Foreign donations that poured into UP as well as the proliferation of institutions and research projects funded by the US Agency for International Development, World Bank, Leo Fulbright Foundation, Ford Foundation and similar imperialist agencies and institutions all served US monopoly interests. Aside from UP, other state colleges and universities served the same purpose.

Many Filipino scholars and military officers also trained in US universities and military academies. Such was the substance of the decades of US “training” in “self-governance and democracy” received by Filipinos even before the outbreak of the Second World War.

After the US established the neocolonial Philippine state in the form of the puppet republic in 1946, the Philippine educational system remained under its decisive control through international agencies like the World Bank. Suffused with anticommunism and cultivating admiration for the “American way”, the US and its international agencies intensified their direction and design of study programs, books and scholarships. An anti-nationalist mentality that ran counter to the people's democratic aspirations significantly influenced the consciousness of teachers and students. It was in this manner that US imperialism tried to quench the fires of patriotic and revolutionary consciousness among the people. **AE**

Tuition fees hiked anew this school opening

Even as the people wage protests against hikes in oil prices, water and electricity rates, students are opposing increased tuition and other fees imposed by schools this June.

CHED announced that 357 private colleges and universities nationwide will be raising their fees by an average of 13%. Almost 28% of 1,271 private colleges and universities will have tuition fee hikes of 10-110%. Ninety-six of these schools are in Metro Manila. J.P. Sioson General Hospital and Colleges in Manila has imposed the biggest increase (111%). Meanwhile, colleges and universities in Western Visayas have raised their fees by as much as 85%.

The DepEd itself has announced that 103 out of 981 private preschools in Metro Manila will raise tuition fees by up to 30% this coming school opening.

All DepEd has done is to inquire whether schools would be raising their fees by more than 5% and request for reports. The inquiry is conducted allegedly to determine whether the allocation of tuition fee increases is in accordance with regulations:

- 70% for teachers' salaries
- 20% for improvement of school facilities and services
- 10% for profit

Neither DepEd nor CHED is in a position to stop tuition fee hikes because of the absence of laws prohibiting such increases. None of the Congressional bills that sought to put a ceiling on tuition fee hikes has prospered. Worse, the proposed Tuition Fee Rationalization Act (TFRA) now pending in Congress would allow tuition hikes of up to 15% without consultations.

Militant youth groups have assailed the bill. On May 20, the National Union of Students of the Philippines issued a statement rejecting the proposed law. The NUSP said that the TFRA would further deprive the Filipino youth of education. In this regard, students and youth led also by Anakbayan, League of Filipino Students and the Student Christian Movement have been waging street actions since May to protest the new round of increases. **AB**

Bicol farmers reap gains in coco campaign

The price per kilo of copra rose from P9.80 to P11.00 after some 3,000 protesting coconut farmers trooped to the Cosay Oil Mills in Pili, Camarines Sur on March 16. The coconut farmers were members of the provincial chapter of the militant Bicol Coconut Planters' Association, Inc. (BCPAI) and hailed from the towns of Nabua, Balatan, Bato, Bula, Baao, Buhi and Iriga City.

Aboard more than 40 jeeps and trucks, the farmers staged a caravan from Nabua. Before proceeding to the town of Pili, they picketed the Baao offices of the reformist Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement and the Pambansang Koalisyon ng Samahan ng mga Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan. They criticized the two non-governmental organizations for pretending to represent coconut farmers in striking a deal with Danding Cojuangco on the coco levy funds.

Upon reaching the Cosay Oil Mills, the farmers were unable to meet with the owner Victor Cosay and thus failed to conduct the planned confrontation. The Cosay family comprises the biggest traders in coconut and other agricultural products in Bicol. On April 6, a hundred coconut farmer-leaders returned to the oil mill and pushed through with the confrontation. Cosay was forced to raise the price of copra, do away with the price deduction for *resiko* and have his weighing scales calibrated to ensure that there was no cheating.

More than 2,000 coconut farmers likewise participated in another mass action led by BCPAI in Pasacao, Camarines Sur on March 18. The coconut farmers from the towns of San Fernando, Pasacao, Pamplona, Libmanan, Sipocot and Bula in the same province rallied in front of the Bicol Oil Mills. They also picketed the house of the oil mill's owner, Apeng Olivan, to confront him but he refused to show up. There was some tension before the farmers wrapped up the activity and made an organized withdrawal, when the municipal police threatened to disperse the rally as the farmers' permit allegedly limited them to the town plaza.

These actions formed the first salvo in the region of a



See "Bicol farmers reap...", page 6

Mang Jose's *lusong*

[The following is an abridged version of an article that appeared in Pasa Bilis, the regional revolutionary mass paper in Southern Mindanao]

We often presented before our group the problem of how to reap bigger harvests. The comrades who operated in our area were the first to call on us to conduct *lusong* or collective farming.

Before we discussed *lusong*, the comrades and members of the mass organization conducted in-depth study sessions on the feudal and semifeudal exploitation of farmers in the countryside. Here we discussed how, by forging our unity, small farmers in the countryside like us could empower ourselves in the face of exploitation at the hands of landlords and merchant-usurers. It was also here that we talked about and grasped the big advantage posed by *lusong* as a means of improving our harvest and coping with the growing needs of our families.

Before we had *lusong*, I could not work my farm of almost two hectares, even with the help I got from my wife and one of my sons. One hectare was just about enough that we could work, but we were exhausted.

But once we began *lusong*, clearing the field, which used to take eight days, could be finished in a day because there are eight active members of our group working. After working on my farm, we would work on another member's land. Thus, we were able to expand our farms and improve our harvest. Aside from corn, we were also able to plant peanuts and mung beans.

From my usual harvest of about five *borden* (a big sack that could accommodate 60-70 kilos), I can now harvest eight to 10 *borden* of corn grain, equivalent

to eight months of food supply.

Nonetheless, we still face some problems. Some of us aren't used to working straight

and want to take frequent breaks. Others work too slowly. Still, others finish up fast, but their work isn't very good.

This is because we have been used to working alone. It takes a long time to shake off old habits. Thus, we tirelessly explain the great advantages of *lusong*.

Conducting criticism and self-criticism every time we finish a job is also an important way of pinpointing our shortcomings and finding out what areas we should improve on.

We also derive inspiration from the levels already reached in the practice of collective farming in other areas. For instance, there are communal farms that use workpoints to compute the number of hours contributed by each individual. When it is time to divide the harvest, each one's share depends on how much he contributed to the work effort.

On the other hand, we also share our experience with *lusong* with other nearby barrios.

Because we work collectively, we develop closer relations as neighbors. We talk about our problems and how each member or the organization as a whole could help out.

As my farmer-comrades say, "*Walang iwanan hanggang sa tagumpay*". (We stand united till victory) **AB**



"Bicol farmers reap...", from page 6

nationwide coconut campaign begun by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, BCPAI and Piglas-Timog Katagalugan in January. In the face of the intensifying poverty and oppression of small coconut farmers, BCPAI is showing renewed vigor after years of inactivity.

As the campaign advances, BCPAI's reorganization is ongoing, from the regional level down to its

municipal chapters. It launched its regional assembly in Legazpi City on April 2, where it elected its regional officers and outlined its general program of action.

The assembly united on four main calls for the coconut farmers in the current campaign: (1) raise the price of copra to P20.00 per kilo, equivalent to the price of a kilo of rice; (2) eliminate the price deduction for *resiko*; (3) put a stop to cheating in the weighing of

copra; and (4) restore the coco levy funds to the small coconut farmers. BCPAI also united to resist militarization in the countryside and its attendant human rights violations.

The reinvigoration of BCPAI and its leadership over the coconut campaign in Bicol are an important leap. Along with coconut farmers in Southern Tagalog and other regions involved in the ongoing campaign, the Bicolano farmers are reaping gains. **AB**

Dynasty in Isabela

For the past 40 years, reactionary politics in the province of Isabela has been under the strict and brutal control of the warlord Dy dynasty. The dynasty maintained and expanded its control by utilizing bureaucratic and police-military power and keeping a private army, through political maneuvers, the use of outright violence against its enemies and brazenly violating the people's human rights.

The Dy clan began its dominance in the 1960s when the late Faustino Dy Sr. became mayor of Cauayan. Later, as governor, Faustino Sr. ruled with an iron fist to suppress the people and annihilate his political rivals. Faustino Sr. used bureaucratic power and his connivance with the military to expand his family business from a small rice mill to real estate, agribusiness, logging and gambling.

To maintain his position, Faustino Sr. supported all candidates for the presidency and quickly sided with whoever emerged the winner. He cooperated with Benigno Aquino Jr. in the latter part of the 1960s in the belief that the latter would succeed Marcos. When martial law was declared in 1972 and Aquino was incarcerated, Dy quickly became a crony of the dictator.

When Marcos was ousted in 1986, Dy once more became a turncoat and in 1988 clinched the governorship of Isabela. Since then, Faustino Sr. made sure that the various positions within the province were held by his children and grandchildren.

At present, Faustino Sr.'s son Junior Dy is Isabela governor. One other son, Faustino III, is congressman of the second district; while Caesar Dy is mayor of Cauayan.

The Dy family's brutal record

The Dy family of Isabela has a bloody record. To protect his power, Faustino transformed the police, military and criminals in the province into his private army in 1970. From

1970-72, Isabela was second to Tarlac in the number of elements of the Barrio Self-Defense Unit. In 1988, Dy established, in connivance with the 5th ID based in Isabela, 15 CAGFU companies and armed them with 600 M14s supplied by then PC-INP chief Gen. Ramon Montaño.

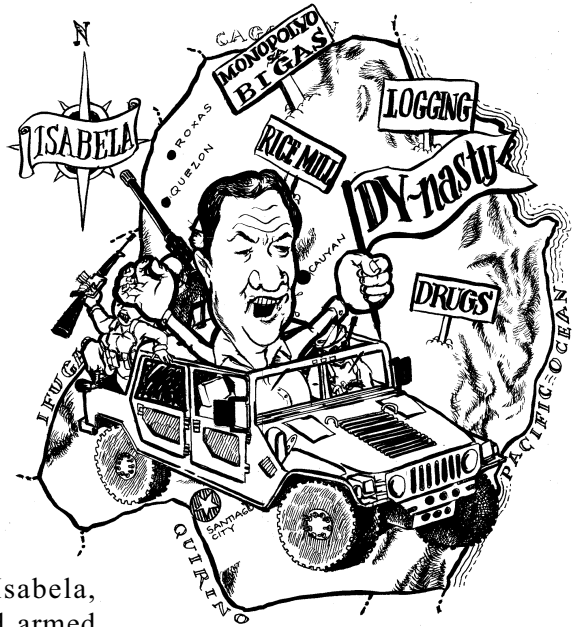
Since Faustino Sr.'s time, anyone who opposed their political monopoly or exposed their involvement in anomalies and illegal activities were ordered killed. In February, Cauayan mayor Caesar Dy ordered the closure of Bombo Radyo-Cauayan for its acerbic criticisms of the Dys.

The Dy politicians also rabidly opposed the revolutionary movement. The elder Dy's order in 1971 to forcibly evacuate 50,000 people from their homes in the Forest Region of eastern Isabela can never be forgotten. Dy himself beat up persons who were captured and suspected of supporting the revolutionary movement. For this, he was dubbed "Governor Dos por Dos".

The Dy empire

The Dy family owns, has seized or otherwise controls, huge logging companies. Its P900 million net income comes from the family's declared ownership of some 99,000 hectares of logging areas. The Dys earn much more from illegal logging and the smuggling of logs to Taiwan.

The Dy monopoly extends even to various forms of gambling. They



control jueteng, *tong-its*, the Small Town Lottery (or Lotto) and casinos in Isabela. In 1988-89, the Dys, in connivance with Rep. “Jackie” Enrile and other military officials, masterminded a “pyramid scheme” racket that victimized thousands of people.

The Dys also accumulate wealth by controlling public works contracts. The biggest among this were the P900 million Ilagan-Palanan Road (1980-1985), the Magat Multi-purpose Dam Project (MMDP), the Maharlika Highway (1972-76) and NIA irrigation projects.

In 1980-82, the Dy family conspired with Danding Cojuangco to grab lands in two haciendas in Isabela, Hacienda Sta. Isabel and Hacienda San Antonio. His sons are also involved in ejecting farmers to give way to Cojuangco's cassava plantation, a coffee growing project by Nestlé, Bt corn testing and many others. The Dys also maintain their control over rice trading in connivance with the Binondo Cartel.

The Dys have also turned to real estate. Among their properties are the Tierra Pura Subdivision, Doña Faustina, Sta. Maria Agribusiness and the Isabela Hotel. They also have condominiums in Greenhills, San Juan and Quezon City.

They likewise own Northeast Publishing and Printing Corp. and control local newspapers in the province. They also have businesses in transportation, construction, vehicle repairs, the movies and even pornography.

With the Dy family's control of provincial politics for the past 40 years, they have established an empire worth billions of pesos by scheming and employing violence. They are now using this as a stepping stone to project Isabela, particularly their home city of Cauayan, as a "growth area". **AB**

Logging companies and sawmills owned by the Dys

1. Isabela Wood Construction Development Corporation Twin Peaks Inc.
2. Sierra Madre Lumber and Logging Mills, Inc. (SMLI)
3. Consolidated Lumber and Logging Mills, Inc. (CLLMI)
4. Jones Logging Corporation (JLC)
5. Woodland Inc.
6. RCC Lumber
7. Pacific Timber Exporters Corp. (PATECO)
8. Mejore Furnitures
9. Isabela Sierra Lumber and Milling Corporation (ISLAMCO) — in Quirino province
10. Mayantoc Sawmill

Dy's antipeople businesses in Isabela to be protected by CAFGU

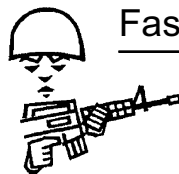
The CAFGU will protect the Dy family's antipeople projects and businesses.

A CAFGU company is set to protect the controversial cassava plantations, Bt corn testing fields and the planned coal mining project in the province.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes himself admitted on the occasion of the 21st founding anniversary of the Philippine Army's 5th ID on May 24, that the CAFGU will protect these projects based on a request from Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. It was also reported this May that Dy will be providing arms to six town mayors of Isabela to fight the NPA and the people opposed to the projects.

Meanwhile, the Danggayang Dagiti Mannalon iti Isabela (DAGAMI), a peasant organization, strongly objected to the planned coal mining project, saying it would affect the people in 23 barangays in the towns of Naguilian and Benito Soliven and Cauayan City.

DAGAMI also said that the cassava plantation and Bt corn testing fields, projects of the Danding Cojuangco-Dy cabal, will displace thousands of peasants in the towns of Quirino, Quezon, Mallig, Sta. Maria, Sto. Tomas, Delfin Albano, Ilagan, Western Cabagan, Burgos, Aurora and Gamu. **AB**



Fascist state on a rampage

Following are some prominent cases of human rights violations from April to June 2002:

JUNE 6. Troops from the 6th ID shot and killed five civilians and wounded three others in Barangay Bualan, Pikit, North Cotabato. The soldiers claimed that the former MILF fighters they shot were carabao rustlers who fought back. But a church organizer in Pikit confirmed that the victims were killed when the military raided and strafed two houses at dawn that day. He identified the victims as Dokilman Duga, 48; Tata Duga, 7; Unutan Mangilay, 44; Tahir Mangilay, 30; and Tukan Midtimbang, 30. Wounded were siblings Mohammad, 19 and Layse Mangilay, 2; and Nasrodin Amerodin, 14.

MAY 21. Soldiers from the 52nd Regional Command Company of the 204th Bde killed Ruben Apolinar, his wife Rodriga and their adopted daughter Nina, 6, in Barangay Ilag, San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro. The Apolinar family were both Bayan Muna coordinators in their area.

MAY 10. A woman who was eight months pregnant was abducted in front of the Quezon City Hall and later sexually abused. The victim was a member of the Migrante International staff. She was abducted by armed men at around 10:30 p.m., fondled and threatened with rape after she could not answer questions during her interrogation.

MAY 4. Marlyn Dawag Alonzo, 31, was shot while a gun was pointed at Olivia Carias Cuevas, 43, in Pangarap Village, Caloocan City. The victims were among the residents opposing the demolition being conducted by Camel Development Corporation which is owned by Imelda Marcos son-in-law Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta III.

MAY 2. Soldiers from the 25th IB led by a Lieutenant Soriano shot and killed Mostelo Gabay, 38, and Ricardo Dulay, 37, both community leaders at Purok 5, Barangay Tagaytay, Magsaysay, Davao del Sur. Aside from the two slain victims, 18-year-old Marivic Ayuba was also wounded. Also arrested were Rosalie Uripaypay, 18; Evelyn Ngujo, 37; and Eleazar Alili, 19.

It was around 5 a.m. when about 70 soldiers arrived in the barrio. They encircled and ransacked the houses of Gabay and Dulay and arrested three suspected NPA members. After this, they riddled the



house with bullets. According to reports, the soldiers also stole from the victims. Among the items stolen was corn stored for planting.

MAY 1. Five persons were killed including a teacher and a 13-year-old child in Darong, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur. There were no indications that the victims resisted upon being presented with a search warrant, contrary to the propaganda being spewed by Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, regional police director for Southern Mindanao. The slain civilians were accused as terrorists involved in the bombings in Cotabato City in April.

FIRST HALF OF MAY. Banwaon tribal folk from Barangay Tabon-Tabon, San Luis, Agusan del Sur were hamletted after CAFGU leader Mario Napungahan accused them of harboring the Red fighters who allegedly killed one of his men. The Banwaon were forcibly concentrated in Kilometer 29 in the same town, near an AFP detachment. Suffering from hunger, they had to evacuate



again to Balit, which is 22 kilometers away from Kilometer 29.

APRIL 15. A section of the 73rd IB and CAFGU elements massacred six persons in Pangyan, Barangay Tamugan, Marilog District, Davao City. Aside from the six who were slain, six others were wounded including three children. The massacre was perpetrated during an NPA wedding. Among those killed was Apolonio Enoc, 64, a peasant leader of the Farmers Association of Davao City, who was invited to serve as a wedding sponsor. Enoc was still alive after the first volley and merely suffered a leg wound. Instead of bringing him to a hospital, he was finished off by Loreto "Toto" Palma, a CAFGU element. Among those killed were Edgar Blas, Jaime Dakula, Luisita Icapan, Warlito Bayanban and Charles Bayanban.

SINCE APRIL 2000. Five massacres and seven murders have been perpetrated in Sulu. The towns of Patikul, Luuk, Panamal, Talipao, Indanan and Parang have been frequent targets of bombings and military operations. Forcible evacuations, burning of civilians' homes, killings, harassment, demolitions and illegal searches are widespread. **AB**

People's response to brazen human rights violations in Oriental Mindoro

Despite the intense terror sown by Task Force Banahaw on Mindoro island, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) and Bayan Muna were able to push through with a rally-demonstration attended by more than 500 persons in Calapan City. On the day of 26-year-old Edelberto "Choy" Napoles' burial on June 4, BAYAN and Bayan Muna condemned Task Force Banahaw for its heinous crimes against the people.

Napoles was the latest murder victim of the death squad formed by Task Force Banahaw led by Col. Jovito Palparan. Palparan also serves as commander of the 204th Bde based in Oriental Mindoro. Napoles was killed on May 28 in Lumangbayan, Calapan City while his companion Ruel Landicho was wounded. The perpetrators were identified as Aniano "Silver" Flores and Larry "Mike" Aparato, both traitors to the revolutionary movement and members of Palparan's death squad.

Napoles was secretary-general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and a coordinator of Bayan Muna in the second district of Oriental Mindoro. Landicho is a PAMALAKAYA organizer.

Napoles is the 16th victim of the death squad and the 204th Bde's indiscriminate killings in Oriental Mindoro. According to Bayan Muna, among the victims are Ramon Ternida, who was killed by Boyet Jocson on April 15, 2001; Lando Cabagay who was shot by CAFGU elements on October 6, 2001; Roger Fernando who was killed by elements of the 6th Special Force Company on April 8, 2001; Emilio Santillan, Expedito and Manuela Albarillo, who were slain by soldiers of the 16th IB on April 8; and Ruben Apolinar and Rodriga Florida-Apolinar, who were killed by elements of the 52nd Regional Command Company of the 204th Bde on May 21.

Bayan Muna demanded that the Macapagal-Arroyo regime file a criminal case against Colonel Palparan and the 204th Bde because of the series of murders perpetrated by the brigade and the death squad under its custody. Meanwhile, the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) threatened on May 22 to file a class suit against Task Force Banahaw if it does not terminate the rabid military operations in the whole island of Mindoro. The KMP said it would convince the families of all victims of human rights violations, particularly the families of 15 civilians massacred in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro on May 16 to join in filing the case.

The KMP holds Col. Jovito Palparan directly responsible for widespread violations of human rights. The KMP, its regional organization in Southern Tagalog and other local organizations in the region have filed a complaint with the Department of Interior and Local Government. They have also demanded that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and new AFP chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cima put an immediate stop to military operations on the island. **AB**

Anti-“globalization” protest actions surging forward

Acts of resistance to imperialist “globalization” in various parts of the globe have become more vigorous in the past two years. They have been characterized by gigantic demonstrations within and outside the centers of capitalism as well as broad tactical alliances encompassing hundreds of organizations and individuals. Indeed, monopoly bourgeois businessmen and politicians could not gather anywhere in the world without being confronted by widespread people’s protests. In response, local military and police forces have been violently dispersing most of the demonstrations.

While focused on summits called by various international institutions and imperialists (IMF, WB, WTO, FTAA, Group of 8, EU, WEF), all these rallies resisted the economic policies of imperialism that have caused the ruination of semicolonies, secondary capitalist countries and the world’s peoples. The protests’ constant theme was opposition to “globalization” and its attendant policies of liberalization, privatization, deregulation and denationalization of national economies.

Among the most significant are the following:

Seattle, USA: In what has been called the “Battle in Seattle”, more than 60,000 people thronged to the city’s streets in November 1999 to oppose “globalization” policies. The demonstrations focused on the opening of the World Trade Organization meeting. When disorder broke out, the US government imposed martial law in the streets of Seattle and violently dispersed the demonstrations. The “Battle in Seattle” was the very first big anti-“globalization” demonstration launched within the backyard of US imperialism.

Prague, Czech Republic: More than 50,000 activists timed their rally to coincide with the opening of the IMF-WB meeting in September 2000. As expected, the police violently dispersed the demonstrations.

Melbourne, Australia: Up to 30,000 protested during the opening of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Melbourne in September 2000.

In Brazil, the World Social Forum was launched in January 2001 and attended by more than 10,000 parliamentarians, scientists, union leaders and activists from various parts of the globe. The forum was timed to coincide with the WEF in Davos, Switzerland—a meeting of the biggest companies worldwide.

Quebec, Canada: Quebec became a center of protests when the Summit of the Americas was held here in April 2001. The police violently dispersed the rallies, arresting up to 400 demonstrators.

Gothenburg, Sweden: More than 20,000 trooped to and rallied in Gothenburg while the European Summit was being held here in June 2001. The rallyists criticized “globalization”. Police attacked, truncheoned and shot at some demonstrators. More than 500 were arrested and hundreds were injured, three of them from gunshot wounds.

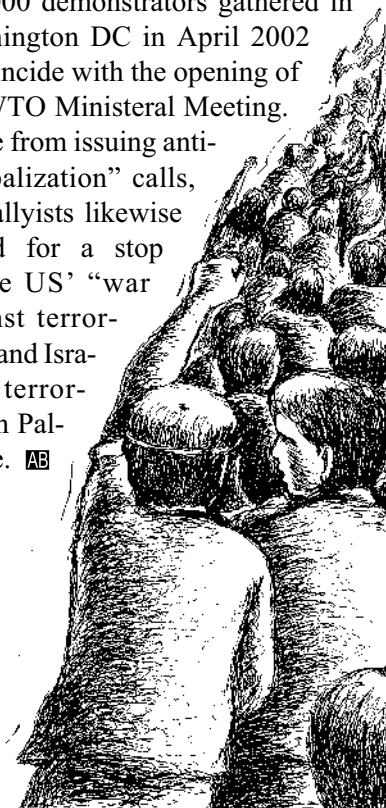
Genoa, Italy: Up to 200,000 demonstrators were violently dispersed by 20,000 policemen in Genoa, Italy in July 2001. The protests were timed to coincide with the opening of the summit of the Group of 8, composed of the eight wealthiest countries in the world. A demonstrator was shot and killed

by the police and even run over by an armored vehicle. Many protesters were injured and illegally arrested.

Brussels, Belgium: Up to 80,000 workers and other people rallied in Brussels for two days before the European Summit convened here in December 2001. The rallyists demanded the reduction of unemployment, improved social services, more extensive workers’ rights and better working conditions.

Barcelona, Spain: Three-hundred thousand people protested in Barcelona against “globalization”. The protest was timed to coincide with the conduct of the European Union Summit in March of this year. The police violently dispersed the rally through the use of tear gas and other riot dispersal gear. Up to 10 people were injured and 50 arrested.

Washington DC, USA: Up to 100,000 demonstrators gathered in Washington DC in April 2002 to coincide with the opening of the WTO Ministerial Meeting. Aside from issuing anti-“globalization” calls, the rallyists likewise called for a stop to the US’ “war against terrorism” and Israel’s terrorism in Palestine. **AB**



Mass movements against imperialist dictates gain strength worldwide

Millions of oppressed peoples the world over have been taking action to assert their rights and interests and resist “globalization” and other International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) dictates.

In Germany this first week of June, more than 950,000 workers threatened to go on strike to demand a 6.5% wage hike. More than 300,000 workers from the insurance, banking and service sectors are also poised to strike. Such mass actions have been launched since mid-May in Berlin and other German cities, the first such occurrence since 1920.

On April 16, some 13 million workers in Italy launched a massive strike called by the Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (CGIL), the country’s biggest labor federation. In a related development, two million people launched mass actions in the streets in various places in the country. Two million workers had also rallied in Rome on March 23.

The workers had taken action to oppose plans by Silvio Berlusconi’s government to amend the country’s labor laws to make it easier to fire workers and perpetrate other forms of oppression against them.

In India, more than 10 million government employees launched a general strike in August 2001 to protest plans to privatize electric corporations.

Also in August 2001, the Congress of South African Trade Unions reported that up to five million workers struck against privatization plans being pushed by the IMF.

In Argentina in June 2000, up to 7.2 million workers supported a 24-hour general strike to oppose new

labor laws imposed by the IMF, which called for further reductions in the minimum wage and pensions.

In Africa, millions of people are opposing the IMF’s policies on privatization and deregulation. In Angola, thousands of public sector workers launched a four-day strike against the government’s privatization program and schemes to reduce the minimum wage.



Massive actions in Kenya, Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique also took place against IMF conditionalities that have been imposed in exchange for loans to their respective governments.

In December 2001, before the collapse of its financial system, two days of bloody protests took place in Argentina against the government’s austerity program. In May 2000, up to 80,000 people expressed opposition to IMF-dictated austerity measures by the government.

In Bolivia, weeks of people’s protests against the privatization of the

water service system culminated in the declaration of martial law and the withdrawal of two foreign companies. Hundreds of thousands continued to conduct rallies, including workers’ and teachers’ unions and scores of peasant and student organizations and federations.

In Ecuador, tens of thousands launched strikes, protests and uprisings against the dollarization of their economy and other IMF dictates. Most striking were protests waged by national minorities participated in by 40,000 people. The Ecuadorian government responded to widespread people’s uprisings by declaring martial law in February 2001.

In February 2002, more than 50,000 people waged demonstrations in Porto Alegre, Brazil to oppose “globalization”.

Similar mass actions took place in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.

Anti-“globalization” actions also took place in Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom and other European countries.

In Turkey, thousands protested in March 2001 against IMF plans to “save” the economy whose collapse it had caused. In September 2001, the people opposed plans by the IMF, in collusion with their government, to raise oil prices, peg wages at the lowest rates and institute tax “reforms”.

In South Korea, more than 20,000 workers rallied in September 2000 to resist corporate privatization and restructuring that would result in massive layoffs.

Protests were also launched in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. **AB**

Free all political detainees worldwide!

Thousands of militants who have resisted the oppressive and exploitative system are languishing in reactionary prisons around the world. Like the 216 political prisoners in the Philippines (the number continues to grow), Abdulla Ocalan, Abimael Guzman, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Tian Chua and Memik Horuz are incarcerated in prisons in Turkey, Peru, the US and Malaysia. Theirs are the most prominent among the many widespread cases of political detention worldwide. The International League for People's Struggles (ILPS) is demanding their release. There are growing calls around the world for their release and the liberation of all political detainees.

Abdulla Ocalan. Ocalan has been imprisoned since 1999 in an isolation cell in Turkey. When arrested, he chaired the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) which has been fighting for the right to self-determination of 40 million Kurds in southeastern Turkey. The Turkish State Security Court sentenced Ocalan to death for murder and treason in relation to his leadership over the PKK and the revolutionary armed struggle.



Abimael Guzman. When he was captured in 1992, Abimael Guzman chaired Sendero Luminoso (Communist Party of Peru), which leads the armed struggle in Peru. He is held alone in an underground cell and is now ill due to the brutal conditions in his prison.

Along with torturing Guzman, the reactionary regime in Peru continues to make political detainees and prisoners of war suffer, isolating and incarcerating them in dingy concentration camps scattered all over the country. Hundreds of detainees have been routinely massacred in prison, especially under the Fujimori dictatorial regime.

Mumia Abu-Jamal. Abu-Jamal was sentenced to death in 1982 for the trumped-up charge of killing a policeman. He has been imprisoned in Philadelphia since then. Abu-Jamal is a former member of the Black Panther Party, a revolutionary organization of Afro-Americans in the US. The organization reached its peak from the 1970s to the 1980s.



Since his sentencing, Abu-Jamal has been held in an isolation cell. He is barred from speaking to anyone and issuing statements. Strong protests within and outside the US have twice led to the suspension of his execution.

Tian Chua. Malaysian police arrested Tian on April 10, 2001 on the basis of the Internal Security Act, a law that allows preventive arrests and indefinite detention without charges or trial. Despite a lack of evidence, the Police Inspector-General declared that Tian was involved in a plot to overthrow the government of Mahathir Muhammad.

Before he was imprisoned, Tian was deputy chair of the National Justice Party and an ardent defender of human rights not only in Malaysia but in other countries.

He was held in isolation for two months before his transfer to the notorious Kamunting Detention Center.

Memik Horuz. Horuz was arrested in June 2001 because he published an interview with the Kurdish Workers' Party in his newspaper. He was a progressive journalist in Turkey who militantly defended the people's democratic rights. He is also an officer of the ILPS.

He is currently imprisoned in an isolation cell. The Turkish Medical Association and the Turkish Bar Association have opposed this for its serious psychological effects on prisoners in the country.



News

Ambush mounted in Calbayog City

A New People's Army (NPA) squad ambushed a truck with military men aboard in Calbayog City on June 4. A soldier from the 63rd IB based in Urdaneta Village, Lavezares, Northern Samar died on the spot. The ambush took place at around 7 p.m. in Tinambacan District, 30 kilometers from the center of Calbayog City.



2 soldiers killed in encounter in Quezon

Two soldiers were killed in an encounter between the NPA and a composite military force on June 6. The fighting occurred in Barangay Ilayang Bagumbongan, Pagbilao, Quezon. It was around 1 p.m. when the clash took place between the NPA and joint forces of the 76th IB, 4th Intelligence Security Unit, 4th Military Intelligence Group and the 417th PNP Mobile Group led by Lt. Jarold Jale.

Cop wounded in Bohol clash

A policeman was wounded in an encounter between the NPA and a team of policemen on patrol in Barangay Garcia, San Miguel, Bohol on June 3. The fighting began at around 5 p.m. and lasted for nearly an hour.

Despotic ex-mayor punished by NPA in Camarines Sur

The NPA punished on May 28 Leoncio Gan, 64, former mayor of Goa, Camarines Sur. The NPA ambushed Gan's vehicle as it approached the Goa Central School.

Gan had long been on the list of those who should be meted punishment for being a despotic warlord and for incurring many blood debts to the revolutionary movement and the people.

Gan was mayor from 1988 to 1998 and was notorious for being a rabid counterrevolutionary.

Thwart US military intervention —NPA-Far South Mindanao

Dencio Madrigal, spokesperson of the Valentin Palamine Command (VPC) of the NPA in Far South Mindanao, asserted that the revolutionary movement in the region was ready to thwart the entry of US military troops in the area.

In a statement, Madrigal also roundly condemned the terrorist attacks in Cotabato City in April that killed 15 persons and wounded more than a hundred others. Madrigal said that the government was now exploiting the alarming situation in the region to pave the way for prolonging US military intervention and its extension in the region. On May 9, Malacañang also issued Memorandum Order No. 61 mandating the deployment of more military troops to Mindanao.

Along with stating its readiness, the VPC also called on the people of Far South Mindanao to block US military intervention in the region.

3 cops wounded in NPA ambush in Sarangani

Three policemen were wounded when an NPA team ambushed elements of the PNP 1206th Provincial Mobile Group on patrol on April 16 in Maasim, Sarangani. The ambush occurred at around 6:30 a.m.

Integration of 254 CPLA members into AFP assailed by NPA-Cordillera

"The Macapagal-Arroyo regime is coddling a terrorist band!" This was the strongly worded statement of Ka Martin Montana, spokesperson of the NPA-Cordillera's Chadli Molintas Command (CMC), on the formal integration of 264 members of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) into the AFP in May. He said that the CPLA had committed major transgressions against the revolution and the people due to its long record of crimes such as the murders of militant Igorot leaders.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes confirmed the integration on May 24 and the start of their formal training on June 1. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the integration on September 1, 2001.

Another 1,200 CPLA elements will be formed into six CAFGU companies and deployed to the six Cordillera provinces to fight the NPA.

The CMC also belied rumors being spread by the CPLA that the latter was seeking to negotiate with the NPA. The CMC said that it considers the CPLA a terrorist group and its leaders counterrevolutionary renegades and criminal mercenaries. The CMC confirmed that a number of CPLA members had rejoined the NPA because they could no longer stomach the former's criminal activities.

8 skeletal remains unearthed in North Cotabato

Eight skeletal remains were exhumed by residents of Sitio Natipakan, Barangay Latagan, Matalam, North Cotabato on May 22 after almost 18 years of searching. The eight remains belonged to victims of summary execution or salvaging by fascist troops. Their families identified them as Esperidion Tableyo, Diosdado Sarsi, Domingo Granatos, Cristituto Tanyan, Jimmy Lobitos, Norman Villavito, Jericho Cabanias and Mitchie Elejo, all civilians salvaged by the former PC-INP, Civilian Home Defense Forces and the AFP. The victims were killed on July 14, 1984 after an encounter between the NPA and the military in the barangay.

CARP in Mindanao inutile vs. commercialization of agriculture



No less than the supposed beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in Mindanao have disclosed that since its inception, CARP has been inutile in the face of the widespread commercialization of agriculture in Mindanao.

The beneficiaries disclosed during the Mindanao Caucus on Commercial Farms held on June 7 that commercialization has drowned out the implementation of CARP through the rampant land-use conversion of agricultural lands since 1988, including lands already distributed under CARP.

For commercial plantations to include lands that should already have been distributed to farmers under CARP, plantation owners use various means to subject such lands to land-use conversion, transform farmers into mere farm workers, incorporate farmers into "cooperatives" that would serve as the plantation's contractual partners and draft production profit sharing contracts.

This severely exploits the farmers and puts them at an extreme disadvantage. As farm workers, it becomes easier to eject them from the plantation. Through such methods, some 20,000 farm workers in banana plantations in Mindanao have lost their jobs due to the commercialization of farms that they thought they already owned.

Number of strikes rise 11% in first 5 months

The number of strikes rose by 11% nationwide from January to May while the number of workers joining such actions rose by 180%. More than 53,000 workers are also threatening to walk out from 292 enterprises because of pending labor issues. The number of strike notices filed with the Department of Labor and Employment also rose by 22% in the same period. Meanwhile, thousands of workers are in danger of losing their jobs due to the threatened closure of 521 commercial enterprises allegedly because of financial difficulties.

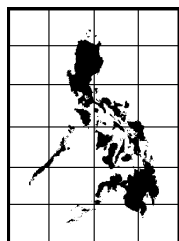


P21B stolen by legislators —Rep. Andaya

Almost 20% or P21 billion out of the P104 billion procurement budget ended up being used in anomalies and corruption by legislators, government officials and contractors last year. Congressional appropriations committee chair Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. recently made this disclosure.

Included in the procurement budget is the pork barrel of senators and congressmen. Each senator has P200 million for the Priority Development Assistance Fund (formerly called the Countrywide Development Fund) while each congressman has P65 million. Each congressman also receives a minimum of P35 million for the public works fund. Almost 60% of the budget for farm-to-market roads also ends up in corruption.

The P21 billion that Andaya said was stolen is bigger than the P16.8 billion budget allotted by government for public universities and colleges and the P11.8 billion for the entire Department of Health.



National Day of Protest

People fiercely oppose PPA

“GMA kalampagin, PPA tanggalin!” (Rattle GMA, abolish PPA) This was the theme of mass actions in Metro Manila on June 5 that signalled the National Day of Protest against the purchased power adjustment (PPA). The mass action was led by the People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (POWER) coalition and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN).

At around 9 a.m., thousands gathered at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City to commence the protests by launching a motorcade. The latter traveled through EDSA; Sangandaan, Caloocan City; Malate, Sta. Mesa and Sampaloc, Manila; and ended at the Welcome Rotonda in Quezon City. Doctors and other employees of the Philippine Heart Center joined the mass action by conducting a noise barrage at the hospital entrance.

From the Welcome Rotonda, the demonstrators marched towards Mendiola Bridge in Manila to confront Macapagal-Arroyo on the seven-centavo hike in the PPA from April to May. Prior to this, they criticized the planned privatization of the National Transmission Corporation, the company that supervises the transmission of electricity generated by NAPOCOR.

Said POWER spokesperson Lolita Donato, “The problem with President Arroyo is that she refuses to admit that her supposed solution—privatization—is a big failure and has only hardened monopoly control on the (power) industry.”

BAYAN spokesperson Renato Reyes also said that the public’s militancy has so far exposed the scandalous PPA and the disaster wrought by the privatization policy being enforced by the Macapagal-Arroyo regime. “The next step is to carry on (with) the protests in order to finally cut off the PPA from our bills and establish a pro-Filipino power industry free from monopolies and foreign interests.” Reyes added that BAYAN would continue holding mass actions against the PPA until Macapagal-Arroyo’s State of the Nation Address in July.

At the Mendiola Bridge, POWER and BAYAN signalled the start of a synchronized noise barrage.

All day, protest centers were open, where people trooped to have their Meralco bills stamped “Paid Under Protest”. The protests peaked from around 9 to 10 p.m. when various communities around Metro Manila voluntarily turned off their lights to manifest their fierce objection to the PPA.

The nationwide mass action against the PPA was also joined by people from Baguio City, Pampanga, Bulacan, Laguna, Legazpi City, Iloilo City, Davao City and other urban centers.



NATO expanding towards Eastern Europe

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) accepted Russia on May 14 as a supposed partner in its fight against terrorism, arms control and international crisis management. A day after, NATO was already preparing for its expansion into Russia's neighboring countries.

The US is using NATO as a stepping stone to expand its influence over Eastern Europe and convince other countries in the region to participate in the war the US is preparing against countries it has categorized as "terrorist". Among its plans are to strengthen and position its forward stationed and deployed forces, forward deterrence forces and forward combat and expeditionary forces in various countries where the US has economic and political interests. These countries will also serve as the US' clients in the sale of war materiel. It is estimated that US defense corporations Lockheed Martin and Boeing will be able to sell \$8-10 billion worth of warplanes and \$35 billion worth of weapons.

Meanwhile, 18 out 150 US troops have arrived in Tbilisi, Georgia to train Georgian officers and soldiers the way it does in the Philippines in the form of Balikatan. The US will also supply arms, ammunition and communications, medical and construction equipment to the country. At present, there is a growing armed struggle waged by the people of Georgia.

NATO is set to convene a special meeting in November in Prague, Czech Republic along with 10 other countries in Eastern Europe that want to join the organization. There are 17 other countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia planning to join the alliance.



Israeli troops launch repeated attacks on Palestinian cities and towns

Israeli troops reattacked the city of Ramallah and encircled the Palestinian Authority headquarters on June 10. They ransacked the city and arrested 60 suspected militants. The Israelis once more withdrew to the city's outskirts on June 12 but continued to lay siege to it. In an earlier attack on June 6, the Israelis set explosives to demolish two buildings in the city, supposedly to avenge a suicide bombing by a Palestinian the day before. On June 9, the Israelis entered Gaza City and arrested the leader of Islamic Jihad at the Gaza Strip.

On May 31, the Israelis attacked the city of Nablus and the nearby Balata refugee camp. About 40 tanks and armored personnel carriers (APC) attacked Balata as Yasser Arafat conducted a dialogue with leaders of various countries on a comprehensive law towards the framing of the Palestinian constitution.

The Israelis arrested 400 Palestinians, including a prominent leader of Nablus, members of Fatah (an affiliate of the Palestinian Liberation Organization led by Yasser Arafat), eight peace activists, a writer from the Petra News Agency of Jordan and women students from Nablus. The Israelis demolished two houses where bombs were allegedly found.

Prior to this, Israeli troops attacked the city of Hebron on May 30. The troops were aboard three tanks, 20 APC and 20 jeeps. Israeli troops conducted raids on houses in the city practically every night, looking for militia, weapons and bombs.

This was followed by a renewed attack on June 4 on the city of Qalqilya where the Israelis set up checkpoints and arrested seven suspected militants in the nearby town of El Bireh. Israelis also reattacked the towns of Jenin and Bethlehem on June 5. They strafed Jenin using 30 tanks and Apache helicopters and arrested Palestinians here and in Bethlehem.

In the past weeks, the Israelis have been conducting almost daily attacks on Palestinian cities, towns and communities to arrest suspected militants and oppress the Palestinians.

Announcement

The *Ang Bayan* editorial staff invites readers to contribute to our publication by submitting comments and suggestions, news items or revolutionary experiences that are worth printing in our paper.

AB comes out in the Philippines' five major languages—Pilipino, Bisaya, Hiligaynon, Iloko and Waray, besides English.

Please send a blank email to the address corresponding to the edition/s you would like to receive:

angbayan_updates_pilipino-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 angbayan_updates_bisaya-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 angbayan_updates_english-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 angbayan_updates_hiligaynon-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 angbayan_updates_ilo-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 angbayan_updates_waray-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

ERRATA:

The sentence "The Estrada camp planned a new round of actions for April and May this year" on p. 8 of *AB's* May 2002 English edition should have read "In April and May, the Estrada camp planned a new round of actions to challenge the regime".

On p. 14 of the same edition, the sentence "Karapatan roundly criticized the PCGG for its stupidity" should have read "Karapatan roundly criticized the PCGG for its negligence".

AB apologizes for these lapses.